



## **BULLETIN RB06-031**

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

### **INTRODUCTION OF BATT INSULATION INTO ULC TESTED FIRE RATED ASSEMBLIES**

**Reference:** Supplement to ULC List of Equipment and Materials – “Fire Resistance” 2003 Edition

The above handbook lists several wall and floor assemblies which do not contain insulation as part of the tested assembly. Sometimes it is necessary to introduce batt insulation into these in order to reduce sound and/or thermal transmission.

**Question:**

Does the introduction of sound/thermal insulation reduce the fire-resistance rating of such an assembly? (See page 21 of Supplement to ULC List of Equipment and Materials, 2003 Edition)

**Commentary / Relevant Facts:**

**Division B, Appendix D** of the ABC 2006 “Fire Performance Ratings” recognizes the added benefits of insulation under certain circumstances in the fire-resistance rating of walls in **Table D-2.3.4.D**.

Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC) has carried out some tests which also show that introduction of batt insulation (especially mineral or rock wool) has a positive effect on the fire-resistance rating of wall assemblies. Glass fibre has no effect on the ratings.

**Conclusion:**

Mineral or rock wool and glass fibre insulation may be introduced into ULC tested wall assemblies without reducing their fire-resistance rating. However, no credit should be given for such insulation for a higher rating as the amount of increase cannot be readily determined.

This ruling does not apply to floor assemblies (the rating of which could be reduced by additional insulation) or foamed plastic insulation introduced into wall cavities.

Chief Building Inspector

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